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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of delivering a text message from a digital
 telephone to a landline telephone comprising:

 sending the message from the digital telephone to an
 intermediary device, the intermediary device for:
10 making an audio file of the text message using a
 text-to-speech software module;

 automatically placing a call to the landline
15 telephone; and

 playing the audio file when the call is answered.
- 20 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein if the landline telephone
 is a digital telephone both the text message and the
 audio file are downloaded to the landline telephone.
- 25 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein if the landline telephone
 includes a screen the downloaded text message is
 retrieved by displaying the text on the screen.
4. The method of Claim 2 wherein the downloaded audio file
 message is retrieved by playing the audio file.
- 30 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the digital telephone is
 a wireless telephone.

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6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the digital telephone is a landline telephone.

7. A method of delivering a text message from a digital
5 telephone to a wireless telephone comprising:

sending the message from the digital telephone to an intermediary device, the intermediary device for:

10 making an audio file of the text message using a text-to-speech software module; and

15 downloading the text message and the audio file to the wireless telephone when the wireless telephone is active.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the downloaded audio file message is retrieved by playing the audio file.

20 9. The method of Claim 7 wherein the digital telephone is a wireless telephone.

10. The method of Claim 7 wherein the digital telephone is a landline telephone.

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11. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for delivering a text message from a digital telephone to a landline telephone comprising:

30 code means for receiving the message when the message is sent from the digital telephone to an intermediary device;

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code means for making an audio file of the text message using a text-to-speech software module;

5 code means for automatically placing a call to the landline telephone; and

code means for playing the audio file when the call is answered.

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12. The computer program product of Claim 11 wherein if the landline telephone is a digital telephone both the text message and the audio file are downloaded to the landline telephone.

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13. The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein if the landline telephone includes a screen the downloaded text message is retrieved by displaying the text on the screen.

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14. The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the downloaded audio file message is retrieved by playing the audio file.

25 15. The computer program product of Claim 11 wherein the digital telephone is a wireless telephone.

16. The computer program product of Claim 11 wherein the digital telephone is a landline telephone.

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17. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for delivering a text message from a digital telephone to a wireless telephone comprising:

5 code means for receiving the message when it is sent from the digital telephone to an intermediary device;

code means for making an audio file of the text message using a text-to-speech software module; and

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code means for downloading the text message and the audio file to the wireless telephone when the wireless telephone is active.

15 18. The computer program product of Claim 17 wherein the downloaded audio file message is retrieved by playing the audio file.

20 19. The computer program product of Claim 17 wherein the digital telephone is a wireless telephone.

20. The computer program product of Claim 17 wherein the digital telephone is a landline telephone.

25 21. An apparatus for delivering a text message from a digital telephone to a landline telephone comprising:

30 means for receiving the message when the message is sent from the digital telephone to an intermediary device;

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means for making an audio file of the text message
using a text-to-speech software module;

5 means for automatically placing a call to the landline
telephone; and

means for playing the audio file when the call is
answered.

10 22. The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein if the landline
telephone is a digital telephone both the text message
and the audio file are downloaded to the landline
telephone.

15 23. The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein if the landline
telephone includes a screen the downloaded text message
is retrieved by displaying the text on the screen.

20 24. The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein the downloaded audio
file message is retrieved by playing the audio file.

25. The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein the digital telephone
is a wireless telephone.

25 26. The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein the digital telephone
is a landline telephone.

27. An apparatus for delivering a text message from a
digital telephone to a wireless telephone comprising:

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means for receiving the message when it is sent from
the digital telephone to an intermediary device;

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means for making an audio file of the text message
using a text-to-speech software module; and

5 means for downloading the text message and the audio
file to the wireless telephone when the wireless
telephone is active.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the downloaded audio
10 file message is retrieved by playing the audio file.

29. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the digital telephone
is a wireless telephone.

15 30. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the digital telephone
is a landline telephone.